CNN - DEATH OF FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH (4-17-2018)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M)

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From Tuesday, April 17th, 2018 CNN Live coverage of the death of First Lady Barbara Peirce Bush who died at age 92. Bush was born in New York City on June 8th, 1925 and was married to the 41st President of the United States, George H.W Bush from 1945 until her death. She was previously a housewife and served as Second Lady of The United States from 1981-1989 and First Lady of The United States from 1989-1993. Her husband would die 7 months and 13 days later on November 30th, 2018.

- Announcement came at 7:42 P.M E.T

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this is cnn breaking news we do have breaking news and it is sad news to share with you at this moment former first lady barbara bush has died she was 92 years old the first lady was being cared for at her home in houston according to the bush family office the first lady had been suffering for some time she'd been in and out of the hospital multiple times battling with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure the first lady and her husband former president george h.w bush had been married for 73 years cnn special correspondent jamie gangall joins me live on the phone jamie uh we're going to be able to to remember more of barbara bush here in these next few moments you had the chance to speak to her many many times this was a moment she had chosen to have happen this way she wanted to be at home that's absolutely true you know it's many people were familiar that her husband uh was struggling with his health because of parkinson's and we've seen him in the wheelchair but not so many people knew that for the past two years she had had struggled with copd and with congestive heart failure then this past weekend she had been in the hospital multiple times but she decided she did not want to go back in that she was at peace and she was going to do this on her terms in the very elegant and forceful way that barbara bush would so the family made the announcement and i am told that she was at home her husband was with her she her family had been in and out visiting but that this morning she really started to fade and that she went into a coma

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to fade and that she went into a coma early this morning and that they knew that the end was coming this evening erin and of course uh that that end has come they have announced uh that barbara bush has passed jamie uh stay with me i i want to give everyone a chance to remember her right now and wolf blitzer has taken a look back at barbara bush's life america loves barbara bush barbara bush was the woman behind two u.s presidents the wife of one the mother of another barbara pierce was born in queens new york on june 8th 1925. she grew up in suburban new york at a connecticut country club dance she met a young man who would change her life george herbert walker bush i was square all through high school i just tried to do the best i could i was like i married the first man i ever kissed you talk about a boar i am the world's worst george bush focused on building an oil business barbara bush focused on building a family george bush eventually entered a life of public service and while barbara's candor might not have made a good match for his job as cia director that's because i can't keep a secret her charm was a definite asset to her husband's political career find the joy in life because as ferris bueller said on his day off life moves pretty fast and you don't stop and look around once a while you're gonna miss it george bush served two terms in congress and

in 1980 was elected as ronald reagan's vice president eight years later he sat in the oval office barbara bush loved living in the white house keeping diaries of her time there and using them to help write her memoirs two other books showed her lighter side and a dog's eye view of the executive

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and a dog's eye view of the executive mansion i must tell you mrs bush knew well her vision of a first lady's role i think the person who has the courage to run for the office is the one you should hear not the wife or the husband having said that of course i told george how i felt for george and barbara their more than 60 years together included decades of devotion this letter to her written by george while he was serving in world war ii i love you precious with all my heart and to know that you love me means my life how often i have thought about the immeasurable joy that will be ours someday how lucky our children will be to have a mother like you i give you two of those children george w and jeb would solidify the bush political dynasty as president and florida governor but in a surprising comment in 2013 as talk of a presidential run by jeb swirled the matriarch told nbc's today show there should be a limit on the family's white house claim there are other people out there that are very qualified and we've had enough bushes but after jeb did decide to run for the 2016 republican nomination she fully backed him and hit the campaign trail he's decent honest he's everything we need in a president in or out of politics the legacy barbara bush nurtured will live on through her family children and grandchildren i know that i'm the world's luckiest woman i think if i sort of put it in a nutshell these are the things that are important to me faith family and friends [Music] author first women kate brower joins me on the phone jeff zeleny is also with me along with mark preston and jamie gangel is back kate you had a chance to speak to barbara bush obviously you have

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speak to barbara bush obviously you have covered the first ladies and she was a very vibrant and very vocal very strong first lady she was i mean i think she was one of the happiest first ladies and and i talked to her uh about the residence staff actually at the white house and the butler's and maids at the white house and they all said that barbara bush was their favorite first lady to serve she was like a grandmother to the staff i mean very sweet very funny she had a great sense of humor had this kind of biting wit and she was really beloved and it's very sad because she was the matriarch of the republican party not just the the bush sprawling bush family and and jeff zeleny she was even as she was battling this this illness which uh of course as jamie points out we were not as well aware of of course everyone was aware of george h.w bush and and his suffering from parkinson's and related complications but not as much about her she even managed as you were covering this election to get out on the campaign trail for jeb she did and that is something that uh i mean boy she is someone who you know if america had a royal family system she would be the queen mom of america and politics certainly an american life erin i mean i do remember when she was campaigning for george w bush of course back in those early days when he was running for governor of texas but then running for president as well she did not think that that son would become president she thought that jeb bush who she regarded as perhaps the smarter of the two sons would be president but boy was she proud of president bush the son certainly proud of a florida governor jeb bush but as wolf was saying in the obituary there that story of her life did not think that it was a moment for more bushes in politics so she was very against the jeb bush iran we know that she had a view of this president you know that was not necessarily positive she largely kept

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necessarily positive she largely kept that to herself in her later years but she certainly kept active and engaged in politics and we are told there will be a statement coming shortly from the white house of course on the passing of mrs bush and mark you know she had spoken i i think in ways that captured all of us uh but but if anyone doesn't remember some of the time she spoke about her unique position as as you know being uh you know the wife of a president and also of course the mother of a president here she is with larry king this is back in 2005. i want to play it what is it like barbara to be the mother of a president it's um it's

worrisome because you worry about the responsibilities having said that it's not very much different from the other children we were in washington last week and i got there before george and laura was overseas and it really touched me the president came out and met me at the door and i would feel the same way if darrow stopped work or marvin stopped working came out of the building i really loved it it was but it's not that much different do you think except it's a huge home yeah lots cause mom to see how i'll call his mom and dad to see how we're feeling is it cold up there or tells us what he's going to do we ask what you're going to do today or was it hard going to checks in early in the morning and no agenda no no no doesn't want anything or doesn't he's uh he knows what he's got to do and he goes out and does it but he's still family means a lot to him yes what it's like it's about family larry it's not about the big deal or the head table or all that stuff it's about a father and mother and a son and then and you show me a picture to your kids i could whip out pictures of mine i mean it's that's what it's about and it's hard for people to to realize that but we've been there and uh loved every

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we've been there and uh loved every minute of trying to serve and we take great pride in our boys that are in politics but it's exactly the same for the others can you honestly say it's hard that you love every child equally absolutely marvin is as important to you as george absolutely neil is as important as jeb and his daughter is as important no questions they all love each other which makes it i mean they're very loyal if george gets hurt marvin hurts if marvin gets hurt darrow hurts and all the way down the line they're very loyal loving and maybe that's what politics does for you draws you either apart or together in our case it drew us together i think poignant ending there mark um you know and i think part of what captures in that exchange not just the warmth that they had for each other but also just the ex talking about you know their son yeah he calls home he gets up in the morning and calls home of course that son was george w bush who at the time was president of the united states yeah no doubt and just like let's take a step back and think about her role uh that she played for in the united states she was a supporting spouse she had six children her husband you know served a couple terms in congress 12 years in the white house her son does eight years in the white house her other son is the governor of florida that is an incredible amount of pressure and stress that you can put on anyone let alone one mother but yet she did it with grace and i do think that when we look back as historians now we're gonna are gonna look back on her life they're gonna look at barbara bush and say that she certainly was the prime example if not nearly the prime example of the perfect spouse partner that a president could have in the white house and i think we saw that with her and i want to share with our viewers a statement we are just getting tonight from the bush spokesman jim mcgrath he says a former first lady of the united states of america and relentless proponent of family literacy

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proponent of family literacy barbara pierce bush passed away tuesday april 17 2018 at the age of 92. she is survived by her husband of 73 years president george h.w bush five children and their spouses 17 grandchildren seven great-grandchildren and her brother scott pierce she was preceded in death by her second child pauline robinson robin bush and her siblings martha rafferty and james r pierce the official funeral schedule will be announced as soon as is practical you know in that statement they talk about what matters so much to her kate but they also i think it is it is so important to note and maybe some were not aware she was preceded in death by her daughter her sixth child who died when she was only four years old and that shaped her forever it did i mean their daughter robin was diagnosed with leukemia in the early 1950s and it was barbara bush who was by her side in new york they they were told by their family doctor to just go home and that she would pass away within weeks and uh mrs bush and and president bush said no we're we're going to do everything we can to keep her alive and so they did a lot of experimental treatment and and they have since done a lot of work for cancer research and specifically leukemia which is what robin passed away from and i just i also would point out that in the conversation it's interesting that people say well abigail adams was the other first lady who was also the mother of a president but what distinguishes barbara bush is that abigail adams passed away before john quincy adams was president so barbara bush is really the only first lady to have a son who was president and to go through those ups and downs and those

emotions and and there are some wonderful scenes in in the uh residence of the white house where she's celebrating george w bush's inauguration and then dealing with the setback that jeb bush was going through as as governor at the time and

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through as as governor at the time and so um she just had an incredible journey and to be married for 73 years the longest presidential marriage in history american history it's remarkable we now have a statement that has just come into cnn from the former president george w bush who has just issued a statement about his mother saying my dear mother has passed on at age 92. lara barbara jenna and i are sad but our souls are settled because we know hers was barbara bush was a fabulous first lady and a woman unlike any other who brought levity love and literacy to millions to us she was so much more mom kept us on our toes and kept us laughing until the end i'm a lucky man that barbara bush was our mother was my mother our family will miss her dearly and we thank you all for your prayers and good wishes very eloquently and beautifully written jeff by the former president certainly uh the words there from president bush are now being echoed on social media from her grandchildren as well george p bush of course the land commissioner in the state of texas he is uh also paying his respects online in social media which of course shows how she really did span the test of time he's saying my grandmother didn't just live life she lived it well and the sorrow of her loss is softened by the knowledge of her impact on her family and her country i will miss you so clearly uh barbara bush really is unparalleled in american history as we've been talking about of of course the be a wife to a president but so much more than that her wisdom certainly will be missed and i want to share something she did an interview a solo interview this is actually in 1994 but she talks about her wonderful life and how lucky she feels let me play for you barbara bush well because i always knew that i was lucky and that life had been good to me but i really

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life had been good to me but i really remembered again how really good it had been for some people when they faced the catharsis of a book and in order for a book to be successful has to be honest have a difficult time no letting it out i loved writing the book and and let me just give you an example i told george this on the phone this this morning or last night before i went to bed he called i awakened monday morning in new york city having said goodbye to george bush and i looked and the airplane went into the white house and a lot of things happened the pope arafat met with rabin a lot of things happened and i sat and watched the news darling jessica tandy died and hume chrome i thought about cronin and i thought you know i knew every single person or place that was on that television set thanks to george bush with the exception of arafat and george did meet him this year but every other person knew me and i knew them quite a lot that's an amazing life i knew it from writing the book but i told george i said it really struck me how really great a life you've given me but also from looking at the book aspects of it barbara bush didn't like of course nobody likes a child to die or losing an election nobody likes you know the ugly parts of politics i love public life sure you did i love people i really i really loved living in the white house but i don't miss it at all i miss the people well i miss the people don't you miss what you love no no because i got more we're having the best time you've ever known you're such an optimist uh former fbi senior intelligence officer phil mudd joins me and of course phil george h.w bush at one time was a director of the cia they were a beloved couple there as well and her comment i love people a beloved couple let me offer you a simple message for everybody who sees us

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simple message for everybody who sees us as a dark moment for every young person who never experienced the bushes let me tell you for just 20 seconds what i witnessed from my friends who dealt with that family and with her and her husband at the c.i.a if you think there is no light at the end of the tunnel in terms of courtesy gentility kindness if you want to research somebody who will give you hope that this america is a great country look at barbara bush that's all you need to do beautifully said and thanks so much to all of you thanks to all of you for joining us and our breaking news coverage continues now with anderson

and good evening we begin tonight with breaking news sad news a storied american political family is saying goodbye to its matriarch all americans saying goodbye to a former first lady barbara bush has died at the age of 92. she lived an extraordinary life in a statement former president george w bush writes my dear mother has passed on at age 92. laura barbara jenna and i are sad but our souls are settled because we know hers was barbara bush was a fabulous first lady and a woman unlike any other who brought levity love and literacy to millions to us she was so much more mom kept us on our toes and kept us laughing until the end i'm a lucky man that barbara bush was my mother our family will miss her dearly and we thank you all for your prayers and good wishes jimmy gangall joins us now with more uh jamie what do we know about uh well the last several days for for mrs bush so you know a lot of people anderson knew that her husband has been struggling with parkinson's we've seen him in the wheelchair very few people realized that she had been struggling with copd and congestive heart failure for the last two years and it's been rough on her she was she was getting tired she told friends and family that she was ready she had been in and out of the hospital quite a few times and when she got out this past week she

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and when she got out this past week she said that's enough and when barbara bush says something you uh you listen she's uh we we have a look back at her life that i think shows her humor and uh celebrates what she was like she was 92 years old anderson let's take a look barbara and i just wanted to pop in here to most americans barbara bush was known for her trademark white hair and pearls but to those who knew her best her family she was simply the enforcer the enforcer your mom's nickname the enforcer a tough but loving mother and grandmother with a wicked sense of humor she wears a size you know two and my leg is a size two or something and a strict rule book if you violated them she would enforce the rules and do it in in a way that was pretty effective for example if we left uh clothes on the floor uh in our room or you know didn't put it hang up a wet bathing suit grandmother would be very direct and you would hear it sometimes from the other side of the house or even outside you know for us to get our butt back inside and clean up quickly it didn't matter who you were she was the sergeant and he was reading his paper and barbara looked over at him george take your feet off my table i said the guy is president of the united states of america give him a break no he knows better than that your mom didn't hold her tongue no not at all mother was on the front line and expressed herself frequently mother was there to maintain order and discipline i am the enforcer there's no question about it but you got angrier than your husband didn't you always she still does you're fightier than him true

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you're fightier than him true when it came to her husband former president george h.w bush she was loving he was superman still is and devoted you can criticize me but don't criticize my husband or you're dead always fiercely protective of her husband but in a way that avoided the pitfalls of some other first ladies who have seemed overly intrusive his not so secret secret weapon she had a foot with the family and a foot in his career this idea that she was not politically involved is not true she was there barbara was someone too who could who could tell george what she was what she thought and i and she and she would just like she could tell everybody what she thought and she would i'm not sure that my grandfather would have obtained nearly as many accolades as he did but for my grandmother critical political partner an essential political partner together for more than 70 years the bushes were the longest married couple in presidential history a love story documented in hundreds of letters between the two i love you precious with all my heart and to know that you love me means my life how often i have thought about the immeasurable joy that will be ours someday how lucky our children will be to have a mother like you and then later in the letter good night my beautiful every time i say beautiful you about kill me but you'll have to accept it the public also loved barbara bush making her one of the most popular first ladies in recent history even though she didn't see it that way why don't you like the word popular well because i don't think it's true and i don't know how to cope with it and i just don't like it i i don't want you to stand up and say here comes the least popular i mean it just makes me very uncomfortable but she used her platform to improve literacy raising awareness and hundreds of

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raising awareness and hundreds of millions of dollars to benefit the cause if more people could read and write and comprehend crime everything would be better occasionally there was some controversy in 1990 when mrs bush was asked to speak at wellesley's commencement ceremony students protested claiming she wasn't feminist enough she responded with a speech that brought everyone to their feet who knows somewhere out in this audience may even be someone who will one day follow in my footsteps and preside over the white house as the president's spouse and i wish him well that political savviness made her a force on the campaign trail well into her 90s during the 2016 presidential primaries mrs bush gave one of her last television interviews to cnn while stumping for her son jeb what do you really think of donald trump i do not i don't even think about him i'm sick of him classic barbara bush with no nonsense candor that sometimes made headlines this was her response to alaska governor sarah palin's 2012 presidential hopes i think she's very happy in alaska and i hope she'll stay there and she made news again when asked about her own son jeb running for the white house two years before he did he's by far the best qualified man but no they're just there are other people out there that are very qualified and we've had enough bushes she also broke the news to supreme court justice clarence thomas that he had the job before her husband officially picked him i greeted her and she said congratulations and that's when i knew and she said oh i guess i let the cat out of the bag a few years later after her husband's loss to bill clinton

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after her husband's loss to bill clinton comedian dana carvey performed at the white house we walked into the their bedroom and there's a big wall of televisions and on one tv was a close-up of bill clinton the new president another tv there was a picture of ross perreault so they're side by side and she just walks in looks over sees the two of them and goes i i can't figure out which clown to look at i imagine it took her a lot longer to forgive me than it did him and maybe she never has it took me a little while i confess but eventually she came around and bill clinton went from political foe to unofficial family member i love bill clinton maybe not his politics but i love bill clinton i'd walk across goals for i think she's immensely impressive a sentiment echoed by her family she is so smart so sharp so aware she's she's witty she's wise she's kind of got that fierce mama bear type instinct she'll defend and support any son or daughter or family member that gets in any kind of trouble she's been a passionate advocate for literacy so my mom's amazing i think the reasons that you know my cousins and i have kind of turned out to be productive citizens and have never taken the fact that we were grandkids of the president for granted is because of barbara bush children grandchildren and great-grandchildren all part of the life and legacy of barbara pierce bush the one request i have is that they stay loving siblings and so far so good and i'll be looking down so behave yourself and jamie gangall joins us now you talked about this the love story they celebrated i think their 73rd wedding anniversary on just on january 6. it's incredible she was 16 years old

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was 16 years old when she met her future husband at a at a school dance he was a senior at phillips andover right and she told me that he was the first person she ever kissed and 73 years of marriage george bush said in his book of letters and i think it really summed it up we were two people but we were one it was a remarkable remarkable love affair and and anderson i know that today is a sad day and a sad moment but what i like looking back and listening to all of those friends and family talk about barbara bush is you really got a sense of her personality if if she was here and i believe she is looking down she would be saying why are you all making such a fuss about me she's very direct very outspoken a lot of fun but she there was a part of her that didn't like being the center of attention but no question she was the center of that family well also i you know just in reading about her incredible life um while her husband before he got involved in politics you know they had moved obviously after he graduated from yale they moved down to texas um he got involved in the oil business he was away a lot he was on the road a lot working building a business she as you said was really the one holding the family together i mean she was kind of the the person on scene right you know we heard them say that they called her the enforcer that was her nickname no question she

was and they were a wonderful but wild bunch of kids but the other thing that i think is true is that it never stopped and and one of the things that i'm not sure everybody knows is literacy was her cause this was something that started when she was in the white house but it was really because you saw her son neil in the interview she discovered he was dyslexic

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dyslexic when he was a kid and so helping him learn to read was something it wasn't just a cause it was a passion and barbara bush and her husband this is a little-known fact in their years since they left the white house they raised together they helped to raise more than 1 billion dollars for charity for literacy for volunteerism for cancer she never stopped right up until the end i i saw her in september at a at a literacy function and she was there taking pictures greeting people she really did believe in giving back i want to bring the panel a moment but jamie also i mean for all the the love and and you know triumphs she had in her life she also suffered a tremendous loss she lost a a daughter i think at age three or four to leukemia that's right so robin who was their first daughter uh got leukemia when she was about two years old she died just before she was four this also speaks to why the bushes have cared so much about cancer research over the years but it was heartbreaking i mean it was just and one of the reasons people always ask why she didn't dye her hair her hair actually in that year when robin died turned white almost overnight she was very young at the time and she just decided to keep it that way and i believe she's going to be buried next to to her daughter as will the former president that's correct she's going to be buried at the presidential library at college station her husband when he passes will be buried there but uh robin's remains are there and she'll be buried right next to her together again jimmy gangall stick around i want to bring in maggie haberman paul begala dr sanjay gupta douglas brinkley david gergen and kate anderson brower uh doug

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and kate anderson brower uh doug brinkley i mean not since abigail adams has anyone been a wife and a mother to presidents and yet barbara bush was certainly a force of nature in her own right and i believe even her father was a descendant of uh of a president as well what do you think her legacy will be well her father was senator franklin pierce and uh yes she'll be always seen as america's um matriarch when it comes to presidential history uh it was she was you know me oftentimes we talk about the closeness of ronald reagan and nancy reagan and their love story about ronald reagan had been married to jane weinman before um this amazing story of george and barbara bush they created a kind of dynasty they never liked that word but the whole kenny bunkport compound thing was very reminiscent of the kennedys and cape cod her her staying with her husband but doing things always on her own terms for example when george herbert walker bush became head of the cia she was very frustrated because he couldn't tell her anything anymore they shared everything together so she started going around and talking to people about her experiences when she lived in china where they bicycle road all over the countryside and that's when she got involved with the literacy campaign which she thought was the key to unlocking the hearts and minds of of the country if you couldn't read you weren't going to go anywhere in american life so she became kind of a progenitor of book festivals and talking about books whether it was a historian or novelist and laura bush kind of emulated her created a texas book festival to celebrate arts and culture but it's mainly her devotion to her her husband and the fact that they had this incredible marriage and and fact how loyal she was to people that knew her even somebody like lee atwater who many republicans turned on she stayed loyal to him because atwater had helped her husband she either if she liked you she would do

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either if she liked you she would do anything for you but she could be very unvarnished direct and didn't suffer fools lightly yeah david gergen you worked for for president reagan when barbara bush was second lady of the united states you worked for president clinton after he defeated her husband what do you think you'll remember most about mrs bush well barbara bush died the way she lived with courage and grace i think it's remarkable anderson how long she was under in the public spotlight you know as second lady is

married to the vice president for eight years and four years in the white house as first lady uh and and then uh you know coming back with her son for another eight years i mean she had 20 years there when she was second lady first lady or first mother uh plus you know she had the two of her sons in governor's chairs and during all that time uh there was there was no she carried herself with a real sense of propriety what it was sort of an old-fashioned way they lived together uh it was very endearing to people who knew them um but she always brought honor to the office into the tradition of the presidency and at a time when we feel like maybe that's in question you know i think she stands as a beacon of what a really good strong and has briefly described her matriarchal uh first lady could be yeah cape brewery anderson i mean miss bush was the most famous and vocal defender certainly of her family she had plenty of views of her own some contrary to her husband's but she was really keeper of the flame in so many ways and i always think just about her sort of self-deprecating sense of humor um not you know uh i mean clearly defending her husband but poking fun at herself i was just reading one of the things when she was asked about her huge popularity she was in the time of the white house she was one of uh always ranked as one of the most popular women in america she said she's popular because she was quote because i'm she said quote because i'm fat and old and nobody feels threatened by me i mean it's very rare that people kind of poke fun at themselves in them in that way well i mean she

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in them in that way well i mean she famously wore these fake pearl necklaces and she would say they were to cover the wrinkles on her neck because she couldn't wear a necklace all to cover the wrinkles all over her face and she had a great sense of humor she was beloved in the white house um when i interviewed her about the butlers and the maids at the white house she remembered their their names she kept in touch with many of them she would sign emails lovebpb uh barbara pierce bush um and i think the love story um between her and president bush is really incredible i mean the longest presidential marriage in history 73 years um she was asked if he had any flaws and she said no he was a saint um and she told me you know i i've i've been so happy as first lady so many good things have happened in my life i have no complaints um and it's all because um of my husband and so i think this is a really inspiration inspirational story and i think as douglas said it's it's you know we hear about the reagans a lot but the bushes also have this deep devotion to each other into their family um and it really is the end of an era of this kind of reagan bush era of decorum and civility in the republican party i think and it's it's very sad yeah uh first of all just dr sanjay gupta is here just on the on the medical front uh we know during when she was at the white house she was diagnosed with graves disease but in in the last few years it was my understanding is uh congestive heart failure and copd can you explain yeah and that was just in the last couple of years i mean she was pretty healthy she got the graves disease back in the late 80s she had a aortic valve replacement as well but that was really about it up until age 90. so pretty healthy copd basically is a significant inflammation of the airways what does it stand for it's it's chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and and it basically it becomes harder to breathe uh sometimes people will need additional oxygen in the worst case situation someone needs to go on a breathing machine which is something within the last few days she said she did not want to do

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to do what can also happen with copd is that the heart is pumping blood to the lungs but the lungs because they're so constricted it makes it harder for the heart to do that so the heart starts to fail as well and that's the congestive heart failure part of it and that's that's when it does become concerning and i think probably what led to this most recent hospitalization but as you know and as she she talked about um she really talked about this idea of palliative care which doesn't mean no care that that's that's oftentimes misunderstood it just means people are still made comfortable but you're not doing things that are aggressively trying to extend life anymore it's interesting i was reading about the death of her daughter when her daughter was almost four years old and i think one of the great regrets they had as a couple was that they ignored doctor's advice to uh uh to to not seek out uh aggressive treatments on their daughter and they did have a lot of aggressive treatments and i wonder how that influenced her view of end of life for for later on in her own life

yeah you know i don't know that she she talked much about it you know as jamie was talking about it's really been president bush who's whose health you know has been focused on a lot and he's been in and out of the hospital several times just over the last couple of years and she was hospitalized at the same time you may remember as her husband at that time with bronchitis was probably some of the first indications of this copd this this obstructive pulmonary disease but it was just over the last few weeks where she just said no more this aggressive care and not putting a breathing tube in not doing things besides just comfort and her statement had been put out just in the last several days that said it will not surprise those who know her that barbara bush has been a rock in the face of her failing health worrying not for herself thanks to her abiding faith but for others she's surrounded by a family she adores and appreciates the many kind messages and especially the prayers she is receiving paul i mean she was she was a politician in her own right i mean not not you know getting out in front of her husband in terms of his politics not contradicting him but later on in life she said that she was uh uh pro-choice um and yet uh

00:40:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=2402s)

pro-choice um and yet uh i mean she had a great political instinct and was an incredibly important advisor to her absolutely she was she understood the power of being beloved it's not that she was popular she's beloved and respected and there's great power that comes with it i think she used it wonderfully and in all the campaigns she went through her husband ran for congress she ran for the senate he'd be vice president president that her son her other subject all that she looked back on all that and she said i hate the fact that people think compromise is a dirty word isn't that wonderful someone who'd had all that much success with through her family and on her own through these partisan means she looked back and said well we also have to compromise too i think that's very much i can tell you from the clinton perspective i helped defeat her husband she could not have been more gracious president clinton is right it took some time but in time she took to calling bill clinton the man who defeated her husband a pretty tough campaign my fifth son she she answered hate with love she's a very tough woman formidable believe me all the bushy friends of mine were scared of her but she found a way i think that's really an important example for all of us today to to be a fierce person and believe what she believes in but also to call us to the better angels of our nature she'll be missed it was maggie fascinating to hear her during the campaign obviously she was out campaigning for her son jeb bush but essentially just say she didn't think anything of of donald trump well it was interesting two things happened in this campaign when she joined it one if you remember when her son before her son actually declared that he was running i think she said that uh something to the effect of the country has seen enough bushes and clintons that was a striking characteristically uh blunt forward statement uh you know that said really where her head was about this run and then as time went on it was very clear how the bushes viewed uh president trump how they viewed how then candidate trump uh doc candidate donald trump treated her son jeb bush i mean there were some of he he he reserved some of his nastiest attacks for jeb bush um you know low

00:42:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=2522s)

attacks for jeb bush um you know low energy was the one that he branded him with um she and her husband uh and to a lesser degree their their former president's son made clear that this was a brand of politics that they did not subscribe to that they considered this to be beyond the pale not just the way in which um president trump campaigned but the positions he was taking it's also such a by the way the white house has put out a statement i'm just going to read it says president bush president donald j trump and first lady melania trump joined the nation in celebrating the life of barbara bush as a wife mother grandmother military spouse and former first lady mrs bush was an advocate of the american family amongst her greatest achievements was recognizing the importance of literacy as a fundamental family value that requires nurturing and protection she'll be long remembered for her strong devotion to country and family both of which she served unfailingly well the president and first lady's thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of mrs bush it's so interesting though in this age where the the idea of a career politician or somebody who has spent 20 years working in uh you know in the washington bureaucracy working in different government agencies is now viewed as you know part of the swamp or a suspect whereas from the

generation of the bushes that was a very different uh way to look absolutely it was very much about a call to service and this is a family that has been very public service oriented and i understand that um you know there are bushes and clintons in terms of uh how many campaigns they have run between them became seen as as royals um and there are some voters who rebelled against that but the reality is that both families had a tremendous public service mind uh and and men toward their approach um you know uh president trump did not spend his life in public service um he did not serve in the military uh he has not made charitable works um his his main calling and it is it is a contrast in every way i am uh going to be very interested to see and i've asked the question and haven't heard back if the president is going to attend the current president is going to attend this funeral it would be the first uh such one that has happened

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the first uh such one that has happened it's not unprecedented i think for a sitting president to not go to the funeral of a former first lady and it may just be that he doesn't go at all but the question is certainly going to come up barbara bush's grandson george has tweeted this just now my grandmother's entire life was focused on others for my grandfather she was his top advisor and confidante for her family she was a steady loving and guiding hand and for her country she was an inspiration and an example for all my grandmother didn't just live life she lived it well and the sorrow of her loss is softened by the knowledge of her impact on our family and our country i will miss you ganny but no we will see you again the latest entry into a family tradition of honoring mrs bush with both humor and affection here are some more my mother was on the front line and expressed herself frequently dad of course was available but he was a busy guy and uh he was on the road a lot in his businesses and obviously on the road a lot when he was campaigning and so mother uh was there to maintain order and discipline she was the sergeant well mom the nickname that one of many nicknames she has was the enforcer so there were unwritten rules and if you violated them she would enforce the rules and do it in in a way that um was pretty effective i don't remember my dad doing that yeah i mean it's uh you know for example if we left uh clothes on the floor uh in our room or you know didn't put it hang up a wet bathing suit um grandmother would be very direct and you'd hear it sometimes from the other side of the house or even outside uh you know for us to get our butt back inside and clean up quickly i think um the reasons that you know my cousins and i have kind of turned out to be productive citizens and have never taken the fact that we were grandkids of the president for granted is because of barbara bush it's like god picked two people and said you guys would be a really good team you guys are going to

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a really good team you guys are going to do a lot of good for people by being together mom is amazing she really is she is she is so smart so sharp so aware she's she's witty she's wise i would say she was her role more important role was keeping us humble and grounded i mean she she was a rule maker and she did have high expectations for keeping things neat and just basic rules and she would let us know when we hadn't met those rules but you know she would never let us think we were any different or better than others and and she was she just kept us grounded jimmy gangal uh you uh obviously have interviewed her so much over the years and again just in the reading i've been doing over the last couple hours about her life it just i'm just struck by the extraordinary family that she and her husband has created they had six children one of whom as we've been talking about robin who died at the age of three of leukemia 17 grandchildren seven great-grandchildren i was also reading that uh in the 44 years of their marriage mrs bush had to manage 29 moves for the family i mean that's extraordinary that is a political wife who had a lot of experience you know as we were listening to them uh the family members all talking about uh her being the enforcer and strict i i was also struck anderson by the fact that they are still there is this feeling of respect for her you know jeb said she she was pretty effective i mean i think up until the end they when barbara bush said something they listened i i love the story we heard earlier about she was when her son was president and she told them get your feet off the table it's that was the direct kind of personality she had but she was also a tremendous amount

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also a tremendous amount of fun and one of her favorite expressions was if she called you deary and then she said dearie come over here and sit and talk to me you always wanted to sit and listen to what she had to say because it was going to be fun it was going to be funny and she was going to tell you the truth well also you know doug brinkley she really i mean if you think about it she she died as as she lived her life which was really on her own terms you know she she chose not to continue uh you know aggressive treatment to to to be at home to be surrounded by family uh you know there were reports she was uh you know even uh having a little bourbon uh in in the last several days um she died as she lived really um yes and she loved houston texas lived in river oaks had all sorts of friends there she really was they were they're incredibly social people and that community is going to miss the bushes terribly but she also had this great affinity for maine and they're building a memorial kind of museum right near their compound up there to to deal with her life in new england but she was born in manhattan and lived in you know rye and was in uh connecticut and as you said she was had an itinerary of moving uh so much but it was the midland texas years when uh zapata oil got created and and um you know that that really their marriage and their identity with texas and uh you know became so solid and no longer were they the new englanders but uh they became houston astro baseball fans on the they're always at the texan football games in the nfl and you at her door in houston anderson used to be a math uh when you walk in that said um the reason birds fly so high is because they carry themselves lightly and that is the key to her personality she did not like pomposity or people

[00:50:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=3002s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=3002s)

she did not like pomposity or people that were full of themselves or people that bragged her husband never did that and she didn't care for people who did kate brower anderson the story i mean i keep coming back to uh her meeting uh george herbert walker bush when she is 16 years old she's one of the few first ladies who actually married uh while she was still a teenager she was under the age of 20 when they actually got married but they actually they got engaged a year and a half after they met right before uh george bush went off to war and then it was uh when he was back on leave that they actually got married that's right she she left smith college um to to marry him and she tells a great joke about how he's the only man she's ever kissed and her kids just about throw up when she says that um i think another point i would make about her is what she did symbolically when she in 1989 went to a house in washington d.c for babies infants that were infected with the hiv virus and she held them and cradled them and talked about needing more compassion uh for people with aids and and at the time in the late 80s there was this terrible myth that you know you could catch the disease by just touching someone so symbolically i think that was really important and i think that also came from uh having to deal with their daughter robin's leukemia diagnosis because there was a stigma in the 50s at the time that could be contagious too so she did a lot symbolically almost in a princess die kind of way when she had those images it was a meeting that lasted less than an hour but it did a lot to help get rid of that terrible stigma david gergen we should point out uh the first lady melania trump has issued a statement i'm going to read it out she says our hearts are with the bush family as we celebrate the life and mourn the loss of barbara bush throughout her life she put family and country above all else her dedicated service the american people was matched only by her compassion and love of family she was a woman of strength and we will always remember her for her most

[00:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=3120s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=3120s)

always remember her for her most important roles of wife mother and first lady of the united states my heartfelt condolences and prayers with the bush family as we honor her legacy also the office of barack and michelle obama is a statement from president mrs obama um on the passing of barbara bush they say barbara bush was the rock of a family dedicated to public service and our thoughts and prayers are with both president bush and the entire bush family tonight we'll always be grateful to mrs bush for the generosity she showed to us throughout her time in the white house for even more grateful for the way she lived her life as a testament to the fact that public service is an important and noble calling as an example of the humility and decency that reflects the very best of the american spirit she'll be remembered for passing those american values onto her children her grandchildren her great-grandchildren and to the countless citizens whom she and george inspired to become points of light in service to others you know it's so good anderson to hear

those the sentiments from the trumps and the obamas they recall another age when people were more civil than i think i think both couples have have handled it with great with grace tonight uh in saluting barbara bush i i do i do uh want to tell you i understand when george h.w bush was thinking about running for president in the late 70s uh he invited me to come spend the weekend with them and kenneth buckport and i had never done that didn't really know him but i was very struck over that weekend first and foremost when i walked in the door there was a democratic congressman who was also a guest for the weekend and a long time friend and they had great fun together and the partisanship did not enter into it it was just there was just a fellowship about it i was also very struck by how relentlessly optimistic uh both of the of the bushes were both barbara and her husband how they always looked on the bright side tried to cheer people up uh and that was good but i was the third thing it really hit me as we talk about it tonight too how much they they had these roots in

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they they had these roots in and texas and they developed them as doug said but they also had deep roots in new england and they came from families patrician families in which the notion of service was central it was a sense of no bless oblige the and that is sort of an old-fashioned way but george h.w bush really proved that when he went off to war in in the second world war he was the youngest pilot shot down in the pacific showed enormous courage at the time and i think it was embolic emblematic of what they came to stand for and this was a view you serve you do it under duress at times it can be rough at times you have to go through this together but it's important to who you are not your wealth but the service i want to listen now to to barbara bush telling larry king what it's like to be the mother of a president what is it like barbara to be the mother of a president it's it's worrisome because you worry about the responsibilities having said that it's not very much different from the other children we were in washington last week and i got there before george and laura was overseas and it really touched me the president came out and met me at the door and i would feel the same way if darrow stopped work or marvin stopped working came out of the building i really loved it it was but it's not that much different do you think it's a huge home yeah cause mom but to see how well calls mom and dad to see how we're feeling is it cold up there or tells us what he's going to do we ask what you're going to do today or was it hard going to checks in early in the morning and no agenda no no no doesn't want anything or doesn't he's uh he knows what he's got to do when he goes out and does it but he still family means a lot to him yes what it's like it's about

00:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=3360s)

like it's about family larry it's not about the big deal or the head table or all that stuff it's about a father and mother and a son and then you show me a picture to your kids i could whip out pictures of mine i mean it's that's what it's about and it's hard for people to realize that but we've been there and loved every minute of trying to serve and we take great pride in our boys that are in politics but it's exactly the same for the others can you honestly say it's hard that you love every child equally absolutely marvin is as important to you as george absolutely neil is as important as jeb and his daughter is important no question which makes it i mean they're very loyal if george gets hurt marvin hurts if marvin gets hurt darrow hurts and all the way down the line they're very loyal loving and maybe that's what politics does for you draws you either apart or together in our case it drew us together i think you know doug doug brinkley mrs bush was always very uh insistent on on saying that she loved all of her children obviously she had six kids one of whom died as i said when she was three but george robin jab neil marvin uh and dorothy but she was in in every interview if ever asked or she would always even if not asked she would make clear you know that having a child who's president or governor is the same as having her other children well that's right and that's a fundamental really of all moms or the way moms should be and that's why we loved her so much we believed her when she said that there was no favoritism mothers love all their children in kind of equal terms and you know when one of the reasons you know that we're all mourning barbara bush's passing and also celebrating her life though was because of that marriage i mean we forget what george herbert walker bush meant yes he was a one-term president but he was president for german reunification

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was president for german reunification and the breakup of the soviet union and the berlin wall coming down he has so much uh one of our great foreign policy presidents uh george herbert walker bush yet his memoir was co-written with brent scowcroft uh not so he didn't seem to be bragging yet barbara bush anderson i think has written one of the best memoirs ever of a first lady and people that want to know more about her should get it and read it it's very well done and she kept diaries of these years and in her memoir we've only seen snippets of the diaries that she included but eventually i hope those will be made open made available to scholars because she had keen insight on people she could read anybody like like a book and earlier you had mentioned george p bush or he he made a very eloquent statement the grandson and he's continuing the political legacy he's the the texas land commissioner which in texas is the the biggest job in the state outside of being lieutenant governor or governor and he's all future i mean he's going to be we're going to be having bushes involved with politics of yet uh the younger generation not just jeb and and george w bush it is i mean doug makes an interesting point paula just a what a critical time in american history it was uh that that george george bush was was president that she was she was first lady um and how different a time it seems now looking backward it does and you know she and her husband followed the reagans who were really quite regal he was literally a hollywood movie star the bushes were actually american royalty they actually they weren't movie stars they they were the the real thing and very patrician and yet had this common touch we're walking watching her here in this video playing on the south lawn with with her dogs and in in the middle of her husband's presidency all of that that doug talked about going on she gave what i think is one of really one of the finest speeches i have ever heard or read i really hope people will

01:00:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=3601s)

heard or read i really hope people will google this and take a look at she gave the commencement address at wellesley jamie mentioned that earlier it was controversial some people were some students were protesting because they felt she didn't represent the sort of modern uh independent woman that because from the look of her she was an old school matriarch and she was at the same time here's how she concluded the speech at the end of your life you will never regret not having passed one more test winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal you will regret time not spent with a husband a child a friend or a parent someone very close to the bush family just texted me and said her husband was in fact at her side at her last moment and that is precisely what mrs bush stood for all her life she also said in that same wellesley speech which jamie played in in the piece when we started with um and the audience really reward basically saying that uh she uh she was sort of speculating that someone in the audience might someday follow in her footsteps as a president spouse and then she quickly said and i wish him well it was great she she i think understood that she talked in that speech about this being a transitional time in the transition that we were in and that we in some ways still are in changing roles of women she was you ask any of those bush folks look at the video of her children and grandchildren she was a force this was not some quiet shy retiring person she was a real force and and really did shape the country but i think for the better the other thing that her family really wanted stressed was her work for literacy she herself raised a hundred and ten million dollars for literacy and this was after they were out of the white house she just did it because she believed in it their commitment to cancer research she and her husband very active at md anderson perhaps because they lost that daughter but they have never stopped giving to others and asking everybody else calling everybody else to give to others and i think it's a terrific part of her legacy too yeah maggie what stands out to you as you think back on on that time of of them in the white house

01:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=3720s)

house i don't think i could say it as well as paul did who who lived it much closer than i did uh at the time um i i i do think that it was a time of there was there was still this view of and and yes they were they were a regal family she was a traditional matriarch but there was this view of public service and there was this view of how you served in the white house and what that meant and i do think that uh certainly um george h.w bush embodied that and i think that she embodied the values of a very service-minded first lady she clearly had

opinions she was not just standing there sort of supporting whatever he said she helped shape his views she helped shape her children's views she's uh she spoke her mind um she was a force i do think that as paul said we are we are in in a rapidly changing time right now about the roles of women and and she seems very anachronistic i think when you were looking at her through the lens of today um she represented a very uh strong and specific model of a of a woman who was doing the work that she was able to in the role that she was not elected to play she was basically she was serving with him and i i am struck just by i mean there was just sort of a basic humanity about her i think the loss of a child can never be overstated and i think it it clearly impacted everything she did going forward yeah and as we said she'll be buried next to her daughter robin who died just before she turned four of leukemia as will uh former president george herbert walker bush uh when uh when when that time comes we're gonna be right back we're gonna take our first break uh in this hour we have some breaking news much more on the life and legacy of barbara bush over the next hour uh right now let's just listen to her as we go to break talking with larry king in 1994. well because i always knew that i was lucky and that life had been good to me but i really remembered again how really good it had been because some people when they face the catharsis of a book and in order for a book to be successful

01:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=3840s)

and in order for a book to be successful has to be honest have a difficult time no letting it out i loved writing the book and and let me just give you an example i told george this on the phone this this morning or last night before i went to betty call i awakened monday morning in new york city having said goodbye to george bush and i looked and the airplane went into the white house and a lot of things happened the pope arafat met with rabin a lot of things happened and i sat and watched the news darling jessica tandy died and hume chrome i thought about cronin and i thought you know i knew every single person or place that was on that television set thanks to george bush with the exception of arafat and george did meet him this year but every other person knew me and i knew them quite a lot that's an amazing life i knew it from writing the book but i told george i said it really struck me how really great a life you've given me but also from looking at the book aspects of it barbara bush didn't like of course nobody likes a child to die or losing an election nobody likes you know the ugly parts of politics i love public life sure you did i love people i really i really loved living in the white house but i don't miss it at all i miss the people well i miss the people don't you miss what you love no no because i got more we're having the best time you've ever known our breaking news tonight from texas sad news former first lady barbara bush has died she was 92 years old the matriarch of an american political dynasty according to the bush family the first lady had been battling for some time congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a statement her son former president george w bush writes

01:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=3960s)

president george w bush writes my dear mother has passed on at age 92. laura barbara jen and i are sad but our souls are settled because we know hers was barbara bush was a fabulous first lady and a woman unlike any other who brought levity love and literacy to millions to us she was so much more mom kept us on our toes and kept us laughing until the end i'm a lucky man that barbara bush was my mother her family will miss her dearly and we thank you all for your prayers and good wishes wolf blitzer has more on her remarkable life america's loves barbara bush barbara bush was the woman behind two u.s presidents the wife of one the mother of another barbara pierce was born in queens new york on june 8 1925. she grew up in suburban new york at a connecticut country club dance she met a young man who would change her life george herbert walker bush i was square all through high school i just tried to do the best i could i was like i married the first man i ever kissed you talk about a boar i am the world's worst george bush focused on building an oil business barbara bush focused on building a family george bush eventually entered a life of public service and while barbara's candor might not have made a good match for his job as cia director that's because i can't keep a secret her charm was a definite asset to her husband's political career find the joy in life because as ferris bueller said on his day off life moves pretty fast and you don't stop and look around once a

while you're gonna miss it george bush served two terms in congress and in 1980 was elected as ronald reagan's vice president eight years later he sat in the oval office barbara bush loved living in the white house keeping diaries of her time there and using them to help write her memoirs

01:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=4081s)

and using them to help write her memoirs two other books showed her lighter side and a dog's eye view of the executive mansion i must tell you mrs bush knew well her vision of a first lady's role i think the person who has the courage to run for the office is the one you should hear not the wife or the husband having said that of course i told george how i felt for george and barbara their more than 60 years together included decades of devotion this letter to her written by george while he was serving in world war ii i love you precious with all my heart and to know that you love me means my life how often i have thought about the immeasurable joy that will be ours someday how lucky our children will be to have a mother like you two of those children george w and jeb would solidify the bush political dynasty as president and florida governor but in a surprising comment in 2013 as talk of a presidential run by jeb swirled the matriarch told nbc's today show there should be a limit on the family's white house claim there are other people out there that are very qualified and we've had enough bushes but after jeb did decide to run for the 2016 republican nomination she fully backed him and hit the campaign trail these decent honest he's everything we need in a president [Applause] in or out of politics the legacy barbara bush nurtured will live on through her family children and grandchildren i know that i'm the world's luckiest woman i think if i sort of put it in a nutshell these are the things that are important to me faith family and friends [Music] extraordinary life joining me now on the phone is former senator alan simpson a close friend of the bush family senator simpson thank you for being with us i'm sorry it's under this uh these circumstances i know

01:10:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=4201s)

under this uh these circumstances i know you and and your family were very close to mrs bush still our dear friend to the to president bush um what are your thoughts on this on this evening well anderson she was a powerhouse and we had such fun together she was who she was and she was a pierce and she had this great love of george and they had a love affair anna and i would see it there were such wonderful times where we fish together or we travel together and the four of us at kennebunkport so we've we felt very privileged to share that friendship and to see so much of the other l word there was love i heard george say george w love levity and the other loyalty loyalty to her friends loyal to her to her family loyalty to her country she and man oh man you know where she stood there were times when i shriveled at the look she gave me but i was able to recover one time is a horrible horror story she had a secret birthday party no one was to speak about this thing she didn't know about it and i was teaching and i was busy and i called her and i said barbara i can't make this party no no she said what party i said well the party that's uh down so and so i realized oh no that a sewer was opening under my feet and she said what are you talking about and i'll tell you she laid it on me for five years you say you're the one you're the one that did it please forgive me but she had sent us off to get cards for the table for set the table at night at kennebunkport or washington we'd get these bizarre things from those

01:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=4320s)

we'd get these bizarre things from those novelty shops and she never knew what we were getting they'd open them up and she'd say who did i don't have no idea but wonderful wonderful time she was joyous and she was so strong and and if if if she if she felt you were towed by her she didn't respect you anymore so i had a wife i have one who was just like barbara bush i'll never forget the two of them were playing rummy cube one time one evening and barbara said you know and what you just said there i think that hurt me and ann said it's your move barbara you've done that a hundred times let's just get over it george and george and i left just and they'd go walk on the beach they'd go walk together they'd walk the dogs the love affair that yeah and barbara had was and we saw the decline we saw what was happening and she just got short she just kind of went down and within herself and she knew what was coming and she she expressed that to

george and he knew what was coming as jim baker told me the telling george you know she's going to kenny bunkport she's gone she'll be gone and he said jim you went through this didn't you it was and jim's first wife died at his side and jim said yeah i sure have heffy and heffy being the spanish word for chief so it's been a we we we few uh you know things at the kennedy center and and trips and it was just the glorious we feel so privileged to have shared the depth of the woman because boy she was she was she was a tall tree on the skyline i love that the i know they they just uh celebrated a wedding anniversary january

01:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=4441s)

celebrated a wedding anniversary january 6th i mean you talk about the the love between them i keep thinking about her at 16 years old meeting uh you know young george herbert walker bush for the first time at a at a dance in in i think was greenwich connecticut and knowing very quickly it seems that he was the one and being together all this time well they talked about that that's the thing they would they would speak of right up till till the end you know and a lot of joshing went on and oh george uh you know and then they'd be at kenny bunk board and he'd say you know barbara forgot to tell there'd be four people for lunch well she said you fixed the lunch no no no no you don't understand or i want to go out on the boat well i'm not getting on the boat unless you get me a cushion you rattled my spine the last time and i'm not going to do it and she uh they they they they loved each other dearly and they would hold hands and and smile and tell stories about the first kiss um the kids would sit there like oh come on you know but uh it was uh it was it was it was real he was he was the two of them were so decent and so authentic i think that the realism of the two of them is that that's anyone could see that these two people especially well not over one over the other that you're looking at are so authentic so real may not agree with them but what you're seeing is truth oozing out of their their being and that's what it was and also the the desire to serve i mean i think it it's i don't know if it's a a different in in generation but you know that there was this real belief in the importance of service you know uh he uh you know soon after i think was a a year and a half after meeting her they got engaged

01:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=4560s)

got engaged he went off to war uh you know did extraordinary things during world war ii as a as a pilot a youngest pilot i think he was and came back married her went to yale and then went to houston to make uh to to make his way in the world of business and then dedicated his life to service yeah and then of course remember the the the terrible stab uh was the beautiful robin pictures of her beautiful beautiful and george wrote the most powerful letter which is in the museum saying you know i hope that we can remember that instead of just boys and ball clubs and bats and footballs the beauty of a gold inherent daughter that we lost man i'll tell you and they were there when we were there the day they dedicated one of the texas institutions hospital institutions but that one never never left yeah never left and a beautiful painted portrait of her always was in their living room with a beautiful robin and she and then they went on and and there was sorrow and he was just at bucky's funeral the other day and we called barbara we said we know george is at the funeral how are you this is three days ago she said i'm great how are you what's up man what how's life how's and then i said what are you doing right now she said susan baker is reading to me and you know how i love to read and said in fact you remember i invited you to my book thing and i said i do because i felt like a jackass at the kentucky derby i knew i couldn't win but i knew the association would be healthy and she said get out of here there were often times when she'd say al do me a favor yeah get out you talked about their their daughter robin died at the age of three before she turned four of leukemia um and it was in that year that i understand that mrs bush's hair actually

01:18:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=4681s)

understand that mrs bush's hair actually turned white in the the grief of that loss and as you said senator simpson a loss that um there's no such thing as closure it stayed with them their whole lives and she stayed with them and they will be buried next to her uh both of them uh when the time comes for the former president but mrs bush will be buried uh next to her daughter robin senator simpson it's it's such an honor to talk to you i really appreciate it thank you so much for your money and thank you for your remembrance of

her beautifully done well she uh she deserves uh a whole lot more thank you senator you're very well commanders much more to come tonight as we remember former first lady barbara bush well messages are pouring in as they as they will continue obviously for days to come remembering honoring former first lady barbara bush who has died at the age of 92. listen to what some of the political figures in the family's orbit have said about mrs bush in recent years she is she's a wonderful mother and grandmother and all of those things but she's also very tough i remember going to kennebunk foot and i was staying in a nice bedroom upstairs and and she said now you know anything this is your home anything she goes but you do know that we make our own beds and i said okay this is bush i get it i'll make my own bed she is she's just wonderful and barbara was someone too who could who could tell george what she was what she thought and i and she and she would just like she could tell everybody what she thought and she would she had a foot with the family and a foot in his career this idea that she was not politically involved is not true she was there and as as president bush told me she always was honest with me about whether she thought someone was serving me well or not so well she didn't meddle but when the door was

01:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=4800s)

she didn't meddle but when the door was shut i always knew what she thought and i think she handled that role with an incredible amount of grace critical political partner an essential political partner she would always say you know i don't really get involved in policy i just leave that all to george and whatever he wants to do is just fine i'm just a grandmother with these great big pearls and behind the scenes she was very smart very focused looked out for his interest and she was a very good judge of people i'll never forget the first time i met her was at a lunch at the french embassy and i just arrived in the white house i'm a three-star general and i'm seated next to mrs bush and i turn good afternoon mrs bush it's great pleasure to meet you ma'am she says call me a barber i said i can't do that man why can't you do it ma'am you're the wife of the vice president united states and she says i don't care call me barbara i said ma'am my mother would kill me if you don't do it i'll kill you yes barbara i have enormous admiration and affection for mrs bush i know what it's like to be a spouse as well as a candidate and i imagine it took her a lot longer to forgive me than it did him and and maybe she never has but i'm crazy you know i'd walk across goals for i think she's immensely impressive and i get why they fell in love and how they stayed together all those years well back now with the panel joining the conversation as well as dana bash dana we haven't heard from from you tonight i'm wondering what your thoughts are anderson you know i

01:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=4920s)

anderson you know i sort of think of barbara bush through the prism of her two sons whom i covered george w bush in the white house and obviously more recently jeb bush on the campaign trail and about the kind of men that they are just as a mother of a son myself i i i know what it takes my son is young they grew up to be president and governor uh and one up obviously ran unsuccessfully for president but it's not just their their sort of politics it's the kind of of people that they are and they became those people because of barbara bush because as you've been talking about with the other guests she was the person at home raising all of those kids while her husband was off either as ambassador or a cia director or vice president and so on and so forth uh and and jeb bush in particular anderson i think about as i said most recently and he really is his mother's son all of the the the descriptions that we've heard this evening about barbara bush being humble not wanting to to to talk too much about herself being about public service but not making it about herself those are all the things that she did impart to her sons particularly jeb bush who is a lot like his mother in many ways many people say and in 2016 that didn't work at all so all of the things that made her special and made her in keeping with the generation that she was it it really did did not work in today's times which is why she spoke out against donald trump but is also it is also why um you know her her son who has those characteristics and traits didn't stand a chance against somebody like donald trump who just was very and is very very different yeah we should point out that the the white house has put out a statement on behalf of both the president the first lady the first lady has put out a

01:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=5040s)

first lady the first lady has put out a statement on her own as well as have former president obama and uh and uh mrs obama uh the former first lady jamie i know the secret service has just released a statement about mrs bush's passing as well what does it what does it say you know in its own way it says a lot because you have all of these vips i don't think i remember a statement from the secret service at a time like this before but they said the u.s secret service expresses sincere condolences to the family of mrs barbara bush the epitome of class and grace during and after her service to our country as first lady of the united states i wanted highlight this because well first of all her code name was tranquility which i think was an inside joke with them but they were barbara bush and george herbert walker bush were beloved by the secret service they treated them so well and and i think it says a lot when you hear about the ushers and the staff and how how much they love them but one of the things that the bushes did for the secret service was on holidays on christmas on new year's they would always stay home and stay in so that as many secret service agents as possible could be with their family or when they went to the vatican to see the pope the president would say who's roman catholic and he would always make sure that they were in to these visits and that kind of courtesy and consideration speaks volumes and and i think it's the reason why you're seeing this kind of uh expression of condolences tonight i just want to add one thing to what dana said about uh mrs bush she talked about the civility with jeb and and how he was his mother's son i would also say that her other son

01:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=5160s)

i would also say that her other son george w bush used to love to say all the time i have my daddy's eyes but my mother's mouth and that goes to the fact that they both could be very sharp uh blunt and uh quick-witted and that was also a big part of her personality anderson uh doug brinkley um you know just the the extraordinary decency of of mrs bush over the years um you know in public life in it just it sort of harkens back to to another time for really both her and and the former president it really does you're just talking about secret service and she had a little feud with the secret service because as first lady she wanted to be driven in a very small car not a giant limo they said no you've got to do the limo but she thought it was very ostentatious and she won that battle she was started to be taken around in a much smaller vehicle then she wanted to fly commercials she didn't want to have you know air force one privileges when she had to go give a speech she argued long and hard about flying commercial but the secret service won that particular one but i'll tell you some of these reflections that we're having here one story i picked up um that's not i've never told before written but uh william webster former head of the cia told me that they it's one of his best stories and he's allowing me to tell it but that they created a body double for george herbert walker bush at cia and that meaning somebody who looked just like him and it was uncanny how much cia had created a human that looked like um 41. so they said well the only way let's so good let's see if we could full barbara with it so this is for real and then suddenly 41

01:28:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=5281s)

this is for real and then suddenly 41 came out and split his gut laughing he was hiding behind the scenes with webster and a few others and it was like oh you got me you guys got me um you know it's that kind of um that's sort of it's a amazing story but it's a tells you a sort of a sense of humor that he had 41 trying to uh punk barbara bush as it were yeah uh sanjay uh gupta is with us just on the medical aspects of of what uh mrs bush was going through um we know during her time in the white house she uh was diagnosed with graves disease um but it really in in these later years it was congestive heart failure and and copd yeah just over the last couple of years in fact she she did have heart surgery back about ten years ago nine years ago that was for an aortic valve replacement but it's pretty healthy you know overall you know copd is copd is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and basically it can it can be caused by a variety of things but the airways sort of the air passes through your trachea into your lungs those airways become increasingly inflamed and smaller it's hard to breathe it becomes harder to breathe and there's various medicines that can be given to try and keep those airways open what happens as well sometimes anderson is because the heart is pumping blood to the lungs and the lungs that have this inflammation the heart has to work harder and eventually that can cause congestive heart failure so in fact she had both things i think it's worth pointing out you know she had a discussion with her family and her doctors just over the last couple of weeks about

what is known as palliative care and there's probably a lot of people who may be hearing that term uh maybe for the first time or looking it up is that i mean is it similar to hospice it is but it's but it's not no care it's not you know people say this is end of life care or withdrawing care it's not uh basically the way to think about it is that we're not necessarily doing things anymore to try and cure the disease but certainly doing things to try and treat the symptoms and people can stand to make you care yeah make you comfortable and you know whatever symptoms might be coming up but probably not putting a breathing tube in for example if someone's having difficulty breathing

01:30:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=5401s)

if someone's having difficulty breathing or doing anything to restore a heart rhythm if the heart has failed for some reason it allows somebody to enjoy what time they they have left with their family maybe be at home that's right as mrs bush was that's right and it's a conversation that that takes place between the person and their physician their family obviously and it's oftentimes on a conversation that happens enough i think people wait for these types of conversations they're difficult to have but she clearly had that and i think it's probably a conversation that many families maybe tonight will hear about this and maybe have with their own families tonight it's really important it's not giving up it's just sort of changing the priorities in terms of how that care is provided kate anderson brower um i mean she really to the point that sanjay made she her life ended in the way that she lived her life really on her own terms surrounded by families surrounded by friends surrounded by the people that she loved i mean one of the really beautiful things about her is you know she she went out she was a consummate political wife she she went out campaign for her husband she was in new hampshire more than he was when he ran for re-election and she was fiercely loyal to him they called her the silver fox the enforcer if there was a story that president bush at the time bush 41 didn't like he would he would go up to a reporter and say you know the silver fox is very angry with you um she one reporter from the houston chronicle told me that he was on a foreign trip and he had written a story about president bush's defeat in 92 and he went up to mrs bush and they had been old friends and he asked for a photo and she just looked at him and said not with you bub and walked away so she was smart and she was watching and reading and very connected and i think to the point um about the secret service and what they said about her i mean every resident staffer who i talked to these are the ushers and the maids they just spoke so highly of the bushes the bushes had a horseshoe pit set up um near the swimming pool at the white house and they would play these competitive games uh with the staff and uh these tournaments and two or three times a week in the spring

01:32:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=5521s)

three times a week in the spring marvin and president bush would go out and play with the staff and barbara bush would go down uh to the pastry shop in her bathing suit with a bathrobe early in the morning to go out for a swim and rain come rain or shine and check in on the pastry chef who she called the cookie man and the florists i mean she just really enjoyed being first lady and it was not a chore for her yeah paula paul your thoughts tonight particularly she she left this world the way she wanted to it's sanjay talked about her choice for palliative care which i think is really important so that she could go home uh so that then she could be with her husband and and someone very close to the family just texted me and said that uh she spent the day with her husband president bush with her son neal with their pastor russ levinson they were all with her at her passing and they read to her uh all day and president bush held her hand most of the day it's just beautiful this is everything that that she stood for and everything she wanted and it's only fitting that she leaves us with such dignity because she lived her life with such dignity yeah jamie an extraordinary way to to end a remarkable life holding the hand of the the man you met when you were 16 years old from president bush's chief of staff jean becker who talked about today she said of course 41 is brokenhearted to lose his beloved barbara his wife of 73 years he held her hand all day today and was at her side when she left this good earth she said obviously this is a very challenging time but it will not surprise all of you who know and love him that he is also being stoic and strong and is being lifted up by his large and supportive family he's determined to be there for them as well and you know it's a sad day but she would also want us to be making a bourbon toast to her that was her last drink and uh i think that she would want us to be

01:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=5640s)

i think that she would want us to be celebrating at the same time well hopefully the liquor store is open by the time i get home and i can get suburban since i'm not much of a drink here but i will certainly have a toast to her uh we're gonna take a short break much more ahead we'll be right back with reaction from president trump also the first lady and former president obama and uh michelle obama we are remembering former first lady barbara bush tonight she has died at the age of 92. our jeff zeleny joins us now i know you uh you're collecting statements from president trump from the white house as well as former president obama we are indeed anderson uh uh president trump and first lady melania trump actually issued separate statements this evening they are at their mar-a-lago resort having a dinner with the japanese prime minister but the president's statement first it reads in part this anderson it said mrs bush was an advocate of the american family among her greatest achievements was recognizing the importance of literacy as a fundamental family value that requires nurturing and protection she will long be remembered for her strong devotion to country and family both of which she served unfailingly well now anderson we should also point out that uh mrs bush of course was uh you know very astute about politics of course throughout her life as the mother of uh one president and the wife of another and she had words to say about president trump as well during his campaign of course jeb bush uh a son she thought would be president at one point um she said i don't understand why people are for president trump of all he says about the women and the military so certainly that was a a moment from the 2016 campaign after that she didn't talk much about the president at least in public but privately i'm sure she still had things to say about this administration but going on to the obama statement anderson we also received a statement from a president and mrs obama it said in part this we'll always be grateful to

01:36:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=5762s)

in part this we'll always be grateful to mrs bush for the generosity she showed to us throughout our time in the white house but we're even more grateful for the way she lived her life as a testament to the fact that public service is an important and noble calling as an example of the humility and decency that reflects the very best of the american spirit so those statements among the hundreds and indeed uh thousands likely pouring in to the bush family uh of course everyone remembering them for their unique role her unique role in american history yeah and such an important time in american history as well jeff zeleny thanks barbara bush had a unique vantage point to american politics obviously in 2005 she talked with larry king about what it's like when people are picking on your kids even if the kid in question happens to be president of the united states take a look and historically democrats in republic had great friendships yeah walter and kennedy were great friends yeah but i think they still do i think i really do think that some of them still do there's certainly a lot of bitterness though yeah there is you can feel it when they take on your son very much so you get personal about that yeah worse than when they don't do anything about it but yeah much but worse much worse when your kids are criticized in this case the president our son is criticized or when jeb went through a lot of a lot of grief down there in florida you feel it you feel it more than when it was about yourself when you're in the arena you can strike back or you can call them so-and-so's and and do something but when you're when it's your when in this case are one of our two sons uh you really feel it it affects me very badly you too when george was criticized i was thinking he has a very short memory he didn't just love being criticized no i wasn't a question which is worse it's worse when it's worse but you get angrier right historically you've seemed to get hysterically historical

01:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=5880s)

hysterically historical historically know that's what you thought i did well your image was that's right barbara bush the enforcer that's right that's because he wanted to get the be the good guy and i was the badger you would have good i believe you turned the other cheek and i knocked that one off too so oh you do not nicknamed the enforcer uh a lot of her kids called her that because she was really uh was the enforcer uh her husband a lot was away obviously a lot of times and she was the one basically raising the kids with me now is jeff tubin kirsten powers ryan lizza and uh mike shields it is mike just interesting listening to them talk

about um you know democrats and republicans being friends and and just it sort of does harken back to a different time in american politics it does and you know they're part of the greatest generation i mean uh george h.w bush was a was a navy pilot in world war ii heroic navy pilot he had lied i think about his age to get into the navy to and was shot down and so uh they truly embody a family of service the whole family and it comes and it comes from the top it came from barbara and so she was both a loving caring mother and as she said there the enforcer she was tough you know one of the anecdotes we were talking about that really sticks with me is in 1987 when george w h bush was running for president vice president and he finished third in the iowa and the ames straw poll and they're flying back on air force two and lee outwater and rich bond who are running the campaign were summoned to meet with the vice president and mrs bush the vice president says hello and greets them mrs bush says when are you going back to iowa and sort of sending the clear messages she said there she was the the bad cop sometimes and the enforcer not just with the kids but with everybody for his career protecting him and i think the other thing i love that clip you just showed there because you also got to see what their relationship was like and how steady it was and strong was how much they cared and loved for each other what an example that was for everybody well also curious i mean again i just keep coming back george bush the first man she ever kissed that she was 16 years old married him when she was under the age of 21 the few first ladies who was

01:40:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=6000s)

of 21 the few first ladies who was married as a teenager i mean it's extraordinary this is another era i mean it's definitely another area it's very romantic story also you know it's very romantic even looking at them he was a senior at phillips andover yeah but together for their whole lives and then there they are we see them talking and you can just still see this incredible you know bond between them i think also one thing to remember about her is that she used to be sort of covered like this oh she's just this this housewife right you know i don't think a lot of people in the beginning before when she spoke at wellesley there were some protesters yeah yeah and people didn't really understand what a force she was and how you know how influen influential she was in this family over her husband and also in raising these sons and you know and and who grew up to be you know one group to be a president yeah i was just reading in 44 in 44 years together they had 29 moves and she had to like deal with it crazy you know i have a very different reaction to all of this i mean the list of adjectives that we have heard described public service oriented the the honesty decency what about the contrast to our current president i mean this family whatever else you think of this the bushes were a family that was just wall-to-wall decent good to people considerate of others and i'm sorry i just keep thinking of donald trump in the white house who has none of the qualities that the bushes have and i think it's just a sign of how different this country is now than it was not that many years ago well i think it also gives you a sense of why mrs bush was so repelled by donald trump i mean she absolutely you know he sort of again you know whatever you think of either of them he is antithetical to all the values that she grew up believing in and lived her life by yeah i mean we're talking about someone who was from a different time a different era right i mean this is someone who during world war ii volunteered at a nuts and bolts factory right um she was so devoted to her husband that when he was shot down

01:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=6120s)

that when he was shot down during the war or i guess they weren't getting married she was a month-long period where she didn't even hear from him and i think the two things that come to my mind with with her is just this sense of service to the country that goes all the way back to uh world war ii when she volunteered to go you know sort of rosie the riveter like life and that is kind of amazing to think about that we're talking about someone who was in politics relatively recently but that goes that far back george walker bush but the contrast with trump bone spurs that he can't remember which foot he had on to get out of fighting in world war ii instead he was a hero i just want to read a paragraph from a letter that george h w wrote to barbara bush in december 12 1943 right after they got engaged he said i love you precious with all my heart and to know that you love me means my life how often i have thought about the immeasurable joy that will be our someday how lucky our children will be to have a mother like you that's beautiful yeah what do you say i wanted an expert opinion on barbara bush so i i texted my mother and mother-in-law republican women and

asked and they both said that she was someone to look up to and that she really focused on reading uh was her was her cause and and they both went out and bought the book she wrote on millie that as soon as it came out and that's the kind of cultural impact she had sort of the vision that we had of the first family and their and their and their pets and their and their children and everyone in the white house together was something that had a huge impact on millions of people and i think it's a beautiful tribute that we can sit and talk about this i don't think it's appropriate for us to start take the moment to talk about barbara bush to start talking about the president we're going to talk about the president every single day well i know and i just agree with you jeffrey i think we're talking about the president enough this is the time to talk about the bush family and to celebrate a wonderful life and the life they have one of the things that jamie gangall said which i i hadn't realized and and um you know i've been talking a lot about their daughter robin who died at the age of three and and that grief um barbara bush's hair turned white yeah

01:44:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=6241s)

um barbara bush's hair turned white yeah in that year and she uh she kept it white for you know she was very young when that happened um and i just think of her kind of living her entire life with this marker of the the time that her daughter died i mean something obviously she carried in her heart all the time but whenever she would look in the mirror she would see that that white hair as a marker and it you know in the 80s as a first lady of this era where image mattered so much as a first lady and coming after uh nancy reagan who was a slightly more polarizing controversial woman and did care a lot about appearances she just she didn't really care you know she's used to joke about her matronly appearance she used to say i don't care about my weight about my hair color you know and she sort of uh she maintained high approval ratings you know at that point i actually want to redo something she said when she was asked about her uh high popularity because in all the polls when she was in the white house she would often rank i think in the top three of most admired women erica she said about she was popular because she said she said quote because i'm fat and old and nobody feels threatened by me it's just so self-deprecating you would never imagine a first year saying you know being so self-deprecated i probably shouldn't say this story on air but you can't talk about this woman without her without talking about her wicked sense of humor and she famously got in a lot of trouble once when she said another politician was a word that uh rhymed with uh rich and she got a lot of trouble she had to apologize and of course she couldn't it was geraldine ferrara she couldn't help in the apology saying i don't know what the big deal is calling someone a witch [Laughter] we're going to take a quick break much more ahead as we remember former first lady barbara bush this from gene becker chief of staff of the office of george h.w bush so many of you are asking how his 41 he of course is brokenhearted to lose his beloved barbara his wife of 73 years he held her hand all day today and was at her side when she left this good earth she went on to say it will not surprise all of you who know and love him that he also is being stoic and strong

01:46:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=6361s)

that he also is being stoic and strong and is being lifted up by his large and supportive family he's determined to be there for them as well we'll be right back james comey is talking to jake the lead with jake tapper thursday at four well a sad night tonight as we remember former first lady barbara bush who has died at 92 but who lives such an extraordinary life joining me now is former director of national intelligence james clapper director clapper i know you met former first lady barbara bush in person you served in the in the george h w bush administration i'm wondering what your thoughts are are tonight well this is a loss of uh an iconic uh figure in in this country uh a great monument to uh decency and kindness and uh what i would call traditional values of this country and someone who had i think uh far more cr influence than she's given credit for both uh with her husband as well as her son and uh so i i join in uh grieving with so many other people uh that uh had any encounter with her our my encounter with her was in 1990 when i was a chief of intelligence for what was then strategic air command which is now transformed into strategic command and this is at offutt air force base in omaha nebraska and president bush visited that's the first time that a president had visited sac in 13 years and i had the honor and privilege of briefing him as again my position

as chief of intelligence and he was accompanied by another iconic american brent scowcroft who was then the national security advisor mrs bush met with a group of wives which included my wife and we were reminiscing about that visit uh tonight and uh my wife sue was recalling

01:48:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=6481s)

and uh my wife sue was recalling how down to earth and earthy both barbara bush was during that visit and how completely captivating she was and how she just captured everyone that she came in contact with and i think that that is emblematic of many other comments and and by the way anderson uh compliments to a wonderful tribute to her by cnn wow it was such an important i mean president bush was only in office for for one one term but it was a really important time in american history i mean there was so much the the collapse of the soviet union the fall of the the berlin wall uh had taken place in 1989 um obviously the first gulf war there was i mean it was a very different time but but a monumental time it was exactly that and certainly from uh from my personal perspective and uh my history uh uh looking back of the momentous events that occurred uh that were so significant just from my advantage as uh through my lens as uh a senior intelligence officer is really a profound uh historical time uh for this country and also obviously george bush had been head of the cia uh in in in prior administration so he came from an intelligence background he did and uh of course that's a great a great help when he served as as president uh obviously he had direct personal insight into the intelligence community and you know he's remembered yet today uh at cia as uh one of the uh you know his tenure wasn't very long but a great impact on the agency and he's still very fondly and and respectfully uh regarded yet today at cia well uh general clapper i appreciate you being with us on this uh on this night as we uh as we look back at uh barbara bush's extraordinary life thank you thanks

01:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=6601s)

you thanks we'll be right back well our breaking news from texas again tonight former first lady barbara bush has died at the age of 92 she's survived by her husband of 73 years former president george h.w bush the man she met at a dance when she was just 16 years old the first man she ever kissed the man who held her hand through much of today and was by her side as she slipped away back in 2004 barbara bush said this to larry king not to be modeling but do you know where your resting place will be you bet and i'd be glad to show it to you where is it it's a college station it's the prettiest place you ever saw yeah our daughter's already buried there the one that was she almost four she's about 50 some years ago yeah and she's here a little stone you'll be buried together there yeah right and then is that oh it's kind of it's not more than or comforting it's very comforting to us the only thing i've said it's comforting it is comfortable i went by there and these guys were working like mad i said slow down you fellas i mean you know but but it's beautiful my mother joins the daughter she lost some 50 years ago when she was just three years old thanks very much for watching 360. time to hand it over to don lemon cnn tonight starts right now this is cnn tonight i'm don lemon and it's another night of big multiple stories but our breaking news is the former first lady barbara bush dead at the age of 92 the matriarch of the bush family wife of one president mother of another passing away tonight she was a famously fierce defender and astute advisor of her husband the first president bush as well as a devoted wife and mother and one of the most popular first ladies in recent history a woman well known as a straight talker we'll have much more on the life and times of barbara bush in just a moment and then there's the news out of the trump white house

01:52:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=6721s)

news out of the trump white house increasingly unsettled over the investigation of his attorney michael cohen in fact a source telling scene and president trump is not just angry he's apoplectic the president apparently fixated on what investigators seized from cohen trump concerned that that could include everything he has ever told cohen and everything cohen has ever done for him source pointing out that only trump and cohen know exactly what that entails another source saying as upset as the president has been over the russia investigation quote this issue in new york takes the cake by a mile because it is a treasure trove of information and things nobody knows about it is personal also tonight the ambassador strikes back after top

adviser larry kudlow tried to throw ambassador nikki haley under the bus claiming she may have been confused and quote got ahead of the curve when she announced new sanctions on russia haley had this blunt response quote with all due respect i don't get confused well kudlow has apologized a source telling cnn he called haley to say that the policy had changed but that the un ambassador was not kept in the loop and then there's fox news's hannity problem though they don't see it as much of a problem the network today in the awkward position of putting out a statement saying that they still support their biggest star that's in the wake of the bombshell revelation that hannity is michael cohen's mystery third client but none of that seems to matter to the president a source telling scene in quote the relationship between the two of them has grown stronger and stronger hannity affirms what trump believes and trump obviously is giving him unparalleled access so let's get started i want to bring announcing senior white house correspondent jeff selney a cnn special correspondent jamie gangel with more on the life and times of barbara bush good evening to all of you jamie it's sad and i know you know her and you said she wouldn't want us to cry over her or make over her but what can you tell us about the matriarch of the bush family well the first thing she would say is what are you making the big

01:54:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=6841s)

what are you making the big fuss about and then she would give you that look she's 92 years old it is a sad day but she would want us to have a bourbon toast don probably at this point you know a lot of people were aware that her husband suffers from parkinson's we've seen him in the wheelchair but not so many people were aware that she's been suffering from copd and congestive heart failure for the last two years she just got tired she'd been in and out of the hospital she was having trouble breathing and this past week she said enough we're going to do this on my terms i don't want to go back into the hospital i'm ready she told her family that she was at peace they all came and saw her they were at peace i know that her husband spent today at her side holding her hand and is heartbroken but i think she did things the way barbara bush would do it she did it on her terms john jeff the white house is responding tonight correct john they are indeed uh slightly unusual two separate statements coming uh from the president himself and the first lady as well even though other presidents the clintons and the obamas issued one statement but uh let's take a look at a couple of these statements uh first from uh president uh trump who's having a dinner this evening with japanese prime minister shinzo abe at his mar-a-lago resort but in part the statement reads this mrs bush was an advocate of the american family among her greatest achievements was recognizing the importance of literacy as a fundamental family value that requires nurturing and protection she will long be remembered he says for her strong devotion to country and family both of which she served unfailingly well also another statement uh as i said from the first lady melania trump issuing her own statement to a former first lady

01:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=6960s)

former first lady it says in part this throughout her life she put family and country above all else her dedicated service to the american people was matched only by her compassion and love of family she was a woman of strength and we will always remember her for her most important roles of wife mother and first lady of the united states so don certainly uh thousands of of uh remembrances from politicians and and regular americans of all walks of life certainly will be coming in here but as as we were you know just uh watching the coverage and and preparing for your show tonight i was having a conversation with uh our cnn photojournalist here mark walls who was talking about covering the bush family and about how mrs bush was so gracious remembered all of the names he said of cameramen of reporters at kennebunkport would invite people into their family compound into the house i remember interviewing her in iowa when george w bush was running so such an american legacy here that she has unique to virtually anyone else so certainly a sad evening but also one to take stock of this amazing unique and to take a woman to take um stock of her humility and she wasn't extravagant it was listening to a story told on anderson's show jamie she didn't want to fly and you know air force one she wanted to go commercial she want to be driven around in a smaller car i'm wondering though because she was such a well liked first lady one of the most like recent history as i said in the open she ever compare herself to first ladies who came before after her you know i i i don't remember her doing that and and just to talk about i think we use the word authentic a lot these days she

was authentic but one thing about her was fake and she loved it and those were those pearls she wore everybody saw she was known for those big pearls and everything but she was proud that they were fake just the way you know she had the common touch uh she could talk to anybody people

01:58:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gigdK5FsD9M&t=7082s)

uh she could talk to anybody people thought of her as a more traditional first lady but there is no question she was an essential political advisor and helper to her husband though very much behind the scenes the other thing that i think that's important to remember is this was a political family for a long period of time her husband's resume from congress to the u.n to china to cia to vice president she really was a critical part of that someone said to me tonight you know so and so they're really good friends with the bushes and i didn't know them and i said but you know what they are really good friends with the bushes the bushes have thousands of close personal friends and a lot of that was because of barbara bush and the role that she played in their political life as well don thank you for that jamie thank you jeff as well i appreciate that

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